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Bridge requires major work

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The Howland Junction trestle bridge, located along the Haliburton County Rail Trail, will require significant work in 2016.

"The bad news is the bridge needs to be replaced next year," zapublic works director Craig Douglas told councillors during his report at a Dec. 16 council meeting, explaining the rotting decking, rails and ties need to be replaced.

The Rail Trail budget for 2016 shows that work will cost \$250,000, plus another \$25,000 for the engineering expenses.

"I don't think we've spent that much on the whole Rail Trail," said Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey.

The bridge work constitutes the majority of the Rail Trail budget for the year, which totals \$335,000.

Douglas had also completed a review of the Rail Trail master plan, a document drawn up in 2012 after the county hired consultant Kate Hall to conduct a public input process on the corridor.

"The working group had a bunch of recommendations and quite an extensive summary," Douglas said.

The master plan concluded the Rail Trail should remain a multi-use area – motorized

see COUNTY page 12



Decking the halls at ASES

The Grade 2 and 3 classes dance to the song *All I Want for Christmas is You* at the Archie Stouffer Elementary School annual Christmas Concert on Friday, Dec. 18 in the Minden school's gym. See more on page 4. /DARREN LUM Staff

Future of Young Eagles up in the air

by ANGELICA INGRAM
Times Staff

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Dec. 10 meeting of Algonquin Highlands council.

The popular Young Eagles program run out of the Stanhope airport might be in trouble due to a decline in the number of volunteer pilots.

The news was delivered to council by Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen, who said the airport committee, of which she is a member, was having difficulty trying to find pilots.

The event which is held every June takes children up in the air in private planes for a scenic tour of the county. The flight is free for the children and is always met with enthusiasm.

Danielsen suggested council look at ways to make it more appealing to volunteers, who offer their time, talents and airplane to the program.

One idea she brought up was pilots requesting getting the fuel for the flights at cost. Currently they get a 10 per cent discount on fuel.

The deputy-reeve said the event is well attended and just in need of more volunteers.

see SUSPENSION page 2

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Suspension bridge a consideration for AH council

from page 1

Councillors may consider putting in a suspension bridge for the Beetle Lake Trail, following a presentation they heard from Scott Ewart of Elevation Aerial Design.

The proposal from the company that specializes in aerial structure design included constructing a suspension bridge at the tune of approximately \$85,000. Ewart said a traditional bridge would cost the township somewhere around \$150,000.

Apart from a cost savings perspective, a suspension bridge would be a "tourist attraction," he said, drawing people to the area.

The dollar figure given to council by Ewart includes everything, from engineering to materials and labour.

The suspension bridge would typically have a 15-25 year lifespan, depending on what type of material is used, and could be designed in a way to prohibit motorized vehicles from going on it.

Reeve Carol Moffatt said council was not ready to make a decision on the bridge as they were just entering budget discussions, however a bridge for the trail was necessary, she said.

Danielsen believes a suspension bridge would be a great attraction.

"We'll wait and see what the budget says," said councillor Brian Lynch.

Highway 60 traffic problems

Ongoing traffic problems along Highway 60 are causing concern among Oxtongue Lake and area residents.

The area in particular is along the stretch of the highway leading into Algonquin Park, said councillor Marlene Kyle.

Oxtongue Lake is located 10 kilometres from the west entrance of Algonquin Park, with highway 60 the only access into the park. The community has a number of resorts, businesses and township roads that can only be accessed from the highway as well.

The traffic is so backed up during the summer months it is affecting area businesses and residents, said Kyle. Emergency services is also at risk.

Councillors discussed a number of things that could be done to address the issue, including better signage in the area, or discussions with the Ministry of Transportation or Algonquin Park.

Kyle suggested money be put aside in next year's budget to tackle the issue.

"We don't want to discourage people from coming, we just want to manage it better," she said.

Moffatt suggested taking the issue to the Good Roads conference next year.

Councillors agreed to have staff look into the matter.

Dorset museum looks at building addition

The Dorset Museum Committee is getting the wheels in motion to construct an addition onto their building.

Committee chairwoman Kerry Lock submitted a letter to council requesting approval to go ahead and obtain drawings for an addition, to be used for storing museum records and artifacts, along with creating a receiving area.

"The proposal will include diagrams showing the design overview and site plan data and will cost approximately \$600 to prepare, along with project cost estimates for the overall renovation," wrote Lock in her letter. "We need approval from council to support this initial expense from our current operating budget for which there are sufficient funds available."

If the project is approved, it will be funded through the museum's reserves and by the Friends of the Dorset Museum.

No date has been set at this point for construction, as the committee is wanting to see cost estimates first.

Councillors approved the committee's request. Any future plans to build will need to get council's approval.

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Tourism priority for warden

Newly inaugurated Haliburton County Warden Carol Moffatt is assisted with her robe by former warden and Township of Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey at the inauguration ceremony for Haliburton County Warden while county CAO Mike Rutter looks on at the county chambers in Minden on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Moffatt said tourism is her top priority.

/DARREN LUM Staff

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Councillors request tax hike scenarios

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Times Staff

Haliburton County residents should expect at least a 3.85 per cent increase in their upper-tier property taxes for 2016.

County treasurer Laura Janke gave councillors a peek at the 2016 draft budget during their Dec. 16 meeting and council requested scenarios be drawn up based on various tax increases.

Janke is predicting a surplus for 2015, the exact amount of which is not yet known and is recommended to go into the county's working fund reserve.

Winter's late onset will result in savings in the roads department, which constitutes the largest

chunk of the municipality's budget at 43 per cent.

"We're going to be significantly under," Janke said of the county's winter maintenance budget, where it's being recommended \$100,000 be put into winter maintenance reserves.

Haliburton County has a total budget in the area of \$20 million and for 2016, more than \$14 million of that will be levied through taxation.

Reserves heading into 2016 are at approximately \$3 million, but that money will be dipped into throughout the year.

"We know we have to use them again," Janke said.

Some auditors suggest that to be in a healthy position, municipalities should have as much as the equivalent of half a year's tax levy in

reserves.

Janke's draft, which included \$620,000 carved from roads and bridge capital, showed the county could do what it needed to do for the year with a tax increase for residents of 1.85 per cent.

In 2015, for every \$100,000 of assessment on residential properties, Haliburton County residents paid \$177.85 of tax to the county, \$263.70 for every \$100,000 of assessment for commercial properties.

A 1.85 per cent increase would mean those amounts would climb to \$181.15 and \$268.59, respectively, for every \$100,000 of assessment.

However, councillors weren't satisfied a 1.85 per cent increase would look after the county's needs, including expansion of high-

speed Internet and keeping reserve balances at a healthy level.

"We need to have reserves," Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey said, adding that when funding opportunities from the province and feds become available, the municipality will need matching funds.

Fearrey said an additional increase of at least two per cent – for a total of 3.85 per cent – would be required.

"Two per cent's a minimum," agreed Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin.

Council requested that scenarios looking at 3.85, 4.85 and 5.85 per cent tax rate increases be drawn up.

Budget talks will resume in January.

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MEETINGS & EVENTS

Dec 31

6:00-8:00 pm, Family Fun New Year's Eve at the S.G Nesbitt Arena
Skating, tobogganing and hot chocolate all for free!
Please Note: skates and toboggans not provided

January 28

9:00 am, COTW/Regular Council Meeting, Minden Council Chambers
*Please note that Council has reduced its meetings schedule to one meeting in January to be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016.

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Cost is \$2.00 per person/per session

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For more information on this program please contact Elisha Weiss at 705-286-2298 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca

Seasons Greetings

From the
Township of Minden Hills

Council and staff would like to wish everyone in Minden Hills
a very Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year!

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Hours of Operation:

Dec 21st to Dec 23rd 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Dec 24th 8:30 am – 11:30 am
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Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery
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Regular hours resume Jan 6, 2016
Ongoing Exhibition: Voices of the Engravers.

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S.G Nesbitt Arena
Dec 24th 8:30 - 11:30
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Dec 27th - Regular hours resume
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December	31	11:00 AM	12:00 PM
January	2	11:00 AM	12:00 PM

*helmets recommended for all skaters. Children 10 and under must wear a CSA helmet and be accompanied by a guardian 14 or older.

For more information, please contact Elisha Weiss at 705-286-2298
or eweiss@mindenhills.ca

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The Boardwalk & Logger's Crossing Bridge are cleared of snow regularly but are not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to "Exercise Caution" when using as these pathways could develop slippery conditions.

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The Township of Minden Hills

Family Fun New Years Eve

When: Thursday December 31st, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Where: SG Nesbitt Arena

What to expect: skating, tobogganing and hot chocolate all for free!

Please note: skates and toboggans not provided





The kindergarten students do their best impressions of a tree in I'm a Little Pine Tree at the Archie Stouffer Elementary School annual Christmas Concert on Friday, Dec. 18.



ASES celebrates Christmas

Photos by Darren Lum



Above, kindergarten students stick out their tongues, performing to the song *If All the Snowflakes*.

Left, kindergarten students Lydia Newell, left, Myla Ecclestone and Rayah Garbutt sing *There Must be Santa* at the Archie Stouffer Elementary School annual Christmas concert.

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Hyland Crest launches music therapy program

by JENN WATT
Editor

After successfully beta testing a music program for people with dementia, Minden's long-term care home will now offer the full video series to residents as part of their activity complement.

Pathways, developed by not-for-profit music foundation Room 217, is a series of videos featuring a host who guides viewers through classic songs with rich imagery and subtitles. While it was created to trigger long-term memory and activate different parts of the brain for those with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, nursing homes have found that it is useful for all residents.

"The people who made this music program are a music therapy organization. They started dreaming this up in 2011. It's taken them a long time to get it all together and we beta tested – that's how we got to listen to it all summer," says volunteer Pat Bradley.

Hyland Crest was one of 30 locations chosen to beta test the program with positive results.

"They just love it," says activity aide Vicki Colicchia. "For some it does encourage them to talk and have conversations."

On Friday, Dec. 4, Hyland Crest celebrated the launch of the full Pathways program and its integration into regular activities at the home.

Since each session has a theme, for the party, they chose Caribbean music with volunteers and staff dressed in hula skirts and tropical snacks for everyone to enjoy. Residents gathered around the big screen in the auditorium to watch the YouTube videos created by Room 217, which feature several Minden faces singing and describing their love of music and the program.

Joyce Hills, 91, and Allan Stokes, 82, sat side-by-side for the presentation, which included plenty of music.

"Anything with music is all right with me," Hills smiled. "It makes you feel happy."

Hills is featured prominently on the YouTube videos and is enlivened almost instantly by any music. While being interviewed, she regularly belts out the chorus of songs in between giving comments to the newspaper. Her father was a tenor soloist and she remembers being four years old and getting up on stage with him to sing.

Stokes used to be involved with his church choir and enjoys participating in the program each week.

"I enjoy it very much," he says.

"Of course, music is the spice of life, isn't it?" Hills leans over to say.

Besides improving memory, Pathways is supposed to encourage increased interaction and a sense of belonging. Hyland Crest resident Ethel Harris, 90, says it gives her a reason to get out of her room.

She seems to enjoy everything about the program, from the songs chosen to the woman who host the videos.

"The best one that I like is country and songs from the country," she says. When she lived in Mississauga, Harris's home was known as "the music house," she says. She always had the radio on or a CD in the stereo.

As she chats with the newspaper, the video host sings Yellow Bird, with lyrics highlighted along the bottom of the screen.

"I like her. She is so nice," Harris says of the host. The song is over and the host goes through a deep breathing exercise. "She breathes. It helps me to breathe. I didn't know how to breathe. Like you breathe, but deep breathing is so good for you."

The Pathways program includes videos, activity booklets, online training for activity aides, and bonus music tracks.

Activity aide Vicki Colicchia, left, Hyland Crest resident Jean (Gail) Kay, and volunteer Pat Bradley dance along to We Have No Bananas during the launch of the Pathways singing program, which benefits memory, social skills and improves mood.
JENN WATT Staff



Activity aide Vicki Colicchia, left, and volunteer Pat Bradley talk to a gathering of Hyland Crest residents, family members and staff to launch the Pathways singing program on Friday, Dec. 4 at the Hyland Crest auditorium. The program helps with memory, socialization and improves mood. JENN WATT Staff



Merry Christmas
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The top 10

AS HAS BECOME an end-of-year tradition around here, these are the top 10 news stories of 2015 for the western half of Haliburton County.

10. Solar projects

With an intake window for the province's feed-in-tariff program open, Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands were inundated with requests for municipal support as companies sought to gain points for their projects, the most extreme of which was a proposed 300-acre solar farm in Minden Hills.

9. Health hub

Spearheaded by the Dorset Community Partnership, the Dorset Community Health Hub opens, offering the services of a nurse practitioner. Some 3,000 residents in the area are without a family physician.

8. EMS base

Years in the making, Haliburton County opens its new EMS base along Highway 35 in Minden. The facility is expected to reduce response times and means the municipality will no longer have to lease space for its Minden ambulances.

7. Septage field

The Ministry of Environment's approval of a field-spreading facility less than a kilometre from homes on Maple Lake enrages residents and has Algonquin Highlands council, which had no say in the process, pushing for its zoning regulations to be recognized by the province.

6. OPP billing

The first year of a five-year phase-in of the province's new OPP billing formula wallops Haliburton County's lower-tier townships, with councils passing the cost directly to taxpayers

through property tax increases. Collectively, the county's OPP bill will double from approximately \$3 million to approximately \$6 million during the phase-in.

5. Plane lands on 35

Like something straight from a movie script, when his plane loses power mid-flight, a Maple Lake cottager lands the Cessna on Highway 35 near the Frost Centre to the awe of motorists.

4. Pan Am Games

The world's best paddlers descend on the Minden Wild Water Preserve, which was the white-water venue for the 2015 Toronto Pan Am/Parapan Games.

3. Pritchard House/Gelert hall

Minden Hills council knocks down longtime landmarks Pritchard House and the Gelert hall. Both buildings had been closed to the public for years, contained asbestos and mold

and had accessibility issues. Nostalgic Minden residents express lament on social media.

2. Orillia Power

After Minden Hills residents stage a large Facebook protest, Minden Hills council turns down a proposal from the Orillia Power Corporation, which owns the plant at Minden Lake, to construct another power generation station, this one along the Minden Wild Water Preserve. The corporation owns property in the area, but would have required the use of municipally controlled shoreline road allowances for the project.

1. Kennedy convictions

Four years after he was killed just outside Minden, three of the four GTA men charged in the murder of 21-year-old Ryan Kennedy are convicted on various charges.



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter



A Christmas tune

DARREN LUM Staff

Graze anatomy

IF THERE IS ONE problem with the holiday season, it is that there is too much opportunity to practice the fine art of gluttony. Everywhere you go, someone is offering delicious food or drink.

And, if you have very little willpower, you can put on a lot of pounds in very short order. This is not fair at all. It would be so much better if all that food helped you put on height.

If it did, I'd be six-foot-four by the time New Year's Eve rolled around.

You see, I happen to be one of those people who lacks the ability to look a treat in the eye and say no. Eggnog, for instance, is practically kryptonite to my dietary discipline. The minute it is offered to me, resistance is futile. It calls my name so sweetly. I simply cannot deny it.

Combine this with Christmas cake, shortbread cookies, chocolates, ca-shews, turkey dinner with all the fixings and the many other New Year's foods proffered and my form quickly transforms – and not in a good way.

Sometimes I think this is part of a larger conspiracy by the clothing industry to sell any type of clothing featuring an elastic waist. When you think of it, it makes perfect sense.

As I write this, Christmas is a few days away. I realized this morning, there's still a chance for me to muster up the self discipline required to eat less and become more active. Unfortunately, the people I visit do not make it easy at all.

This is the time of year when you discover how many truly talented bakers are in your immediate circle of friends and acquaintances.

Logically, the answer is simple. A person

could always say, "No thanks."

Realistically, however, it's hard to say this in a comprehensible way while you are salivating. More than that, if you are sensitive to the needs of others, as I am, you worry about offending the person offering the treat. I worry so much that I often have several of them.

I have been giving this a lot of thought and have decided that the only thing that might help me refuse food is the thought of my personal safety.

Luckily, this year's weather is making this easy to rationalize too.

You see, I plan on ice fishing on opening day for lake trout, which is Jan. 1. But I suspect all this mild weather is going to mean that we have less ice than normal.

So that will be my major incentive for cutting back. The last thing I want to do is head onto thin ice weighing more than I already do.

I'm going to try to keep this in mind every time I pass by a platter of wonderful holiday treats. I'll be thinking of this every time I'm offered a short bread cookie or chocolate. These thoughts will accompany me when I begin to reach towards my mom's fantastic breaded mushrooms for a second helping. I'll certainly be thinking about this when I have the opportunity to sample more Christmas cake or pile on the cranberry sauce.

And when eggnog's siren song beckons me from across a festive room, I will counter it with thoughts of exceeding the weight the new ice can support by just a few pounds.

I will not waver from this, no matter how sweet or savory the offering. Then again, fat floats, doesn't it?



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

O Night Divine!

THIS IS MY FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS MEMORY, which I have written about many times in many places. Repeating it has become a Christmas tradition.

Fresh-fallen snow protested beneath the crush of my gumboots breaking trail down the unplowed lane. Dry, sharp squeaks, not unlike the cries of cheap chalk cruelly scrapped against too clean a blackboard.

Skuur-eek, skuur-eek.

The boots ignored the sounds. They moved on, ribbed rubber bottoms and laced high leather tops creating a meandering wake in the ankle deep snow.

From each side of the trail, drifted snow leaned tiredly against the backsides of the bungalows, dropped there to rest by an impatient blizzard just passed through. Their crests were indistinguishable against the white stucco walls but nearly reached tufted piles of fluffy snow clinging nervously to windowsills and eavestrough lips.

The squeaks flew through the still night air, dodging fat flakes that fell heavy and straight onto my cap bill, but occasionally splashing into my face flushed warm from the walk. I could have rode back home from

Christmas Eve Mass with the family, but the teenage mind always prefers independence, and it was a chance to visit friends along the way.

Faint strains of music joined the squeaking as I approached our back fence. I stopped to hear the music more clearly, now identifiable as singing voices escaping through an open window.

I shuffled forward and listened to the notes float out crisply and clearly, then mingle with smoke rising from the chimneys. Notes and smoke rose together into an icy sky illuminated by frost crystals set shimmering by thousands of

stars and the frosty moon the Ojibwe called Minidoo Geezis, the little spirit moon that appears small and cold early in winter.

I held my breath to hear better and determined that the music was "O Holy Night," and the notes came through the window in my grandmother's room. It was open to the cold because most people smoked cigarettes back then and at gatherings cracked a window to thin the smoke.

They sang the first verse, and, when they reached the sixth line, the other voices ceased and one voice carried on alone:

"Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O Niiii ... iiight Diii... vine! ..." That's the part where the notes rise higher and higher until the singer reaches an awesome note.

The solo voice belonged to my grandmother, and I knew she was hitting that high note while sitting on the edge of the bed that crippling rheumatoid arthritis had made her prison for 16 years. She was unable to walk without assistance and had trouble holding a cigarette between her gnarled fingers.

The others had stopped singing to listen to her. The second time she hit the high notes at the words "O Night Divine," a shiver danced on my spine. When she finished singing "O Holy Night," the other voices started up again, this time with "Silent Night" and other favourite carols.

I went into the house and found Christmas Eve celebrants – my mom, dad, and some neighbours – crowded into the 10-by-10 bedroom that was my grandmother's world. They sang long into the night, mostly in French because the neighbours were the Gauthiers who seldom spoke English to my grandmother and my mother.

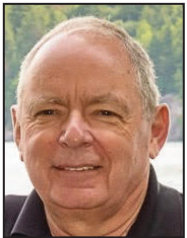
After the singing ended my mother served tourtière, which I slathered with mustard. Then we gathered at the tree and opened our gifts.

I have long forgotten what present was under the tree for me. It doesn't matter, because my real gift came many years later: the gift of realization that those high notes were not solely the products of the lungs. They were driven by something stronger than flesh – an unbreakable spirit. They came from strength far beyond anything that a mere body can produce.

The memory of that unbreakable spirit is the best Christmas gift that I receive every year.

Email: shaman@vianet.ca

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From Shaman's Rock



Tim Hortons donates to Dental Outreach Clinic

From left, Debbie Rouble, Minden store manager, Nancy Bishop, owner Minden and Haliburton Tim Hortons, VDO board members Dr. Bill Kerr, Sandra Slauenwhite-Box, Kathy Purc, Lisa Kerr and Melanie Aldom. VDO board members missing in the photo include: board chair Janis Parker, Betty Mills, Mark Arike and Brigitte Gebauer.

The funds were raised during the Smile Cookie Campaign in Haliburton and Minden this past September. To date the volunteer clinic has helped 581 patients, provided \$1,480,631 in free dental care over 4,238 appointments to Haliburton County Residents in need. The clinic has hosted 24 dentist volunteers since opening in May 2011 and 17 dental hygienists. Any dental professionals interested in volunteering could call Lisa at 705-457-3111 or visit www.dental-outreach.com for more information. Photo taken by Mark Arike at the Minden Tim Hortons.

Pat Dube, Brent Devolin, Andria Cowan, Peter Brady

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Singing along in Lochlin

Right, Rev. Harry Morgan with help from musicians including Shannon Neville on violin led a Christmas carol singalong at Lochlin United Church Dec. 16. Below left, adding some harmony. Below right, the house was packed. /CHAD INGRAM



Miners Bay blog goes viral

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Miners Bay resident Jim Love was flabbergasted when he saw a message from a family member supporting a petition encouraging the stemming of refugees to Canada.

"It knocked me for a loop," Love, who runs a local media company, says.

There's been a rise in Islamophobic sentiment on social media and in Canadian communities – including the torching of Peterborough's sole mosque – since the Nov. 13 terrorist attack in Paris, for which ISIS claimed responsibility.

"I think it's obscene," Love says of these attitudes. "It's a short step to Donald Trump. This is exactly what terrorists want. They want to turn fear into phobia."

Love writes a blog called *Change the game* and, struggling with how to respond to his family member's post and to sentiments from others he knows and profoundly disagrees with, used his blog.

Even so, I'm not giving up on you is the title of the post from Nov. 19.

"I saw your post on Facebook," it begins. "The one where you were trying to get people to sign the petition to 'stop the immigration.' Wow. How do I respond to this? Well, I guess I can say that I'm kind of glad it was you who sent it. If it had been some stranger, I would have just dismissed it as the ravings of some redneck asshole. Yup. That's how unkind I would have been.

"Which doesn't say good things about me.

"But because it was you I had to really think about how to respond. How can someone that I like, respect even, someone who I know would never wish harm to another – how can this person want to stand by and let innocent people, mothers and their children – starve in refugee camps or die at the hands of human smugglers?"

The reaction to the post, which Love put on Facebook and Twitter, has been viral, with more than 200,000 views.

"[Normally], I might get 400 hits, if I'm lucky," Love says. "I was astounded. I was really astounded. It was heartening. It renewed by faith in things."

The full text can be found at <http://changethegame.ca/2015/11/19/even-so-im-not-giving-up-on-you/#more-729>

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Former junior citizen now a college student

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Alnoor Gowani was a 13-year-old Grade 8 student when he was given a Junior Citizen of the Year Award from the Ontario Community Newspaper Association in 2009 for saving a drowning man from the Gull River.

Gowani and a friend had been swimming along the river in Minden on a Friday night when Gowani noticed a man struggling in the water. Swimming out to meet the 30-year old, Gowani grabbed his hands, told him to kick his feet and swam him safely back to shore.

Today, Gowani is a 19-year-old marketing student at Toronto's George Brown College.

"I'm in my co-op for school," Gowani says, explaining that he is a marketing and events assistant for the college.

He's in his second year of a four-year business administration program, also working two part-time retail jobs.

Gowani's family left the Haliburton Highlands when he was partway through his Grade 10 year, with him finishing his high school career in Mississauga.

He was the recipient of a scholarship from the Port Credit Alumni Association.

Having lived in Minden since he was

a Grade 2 student at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, it was a major transition, moving to a much, much larger centre.

"There was a much higher degree of diversity," Gowani says, referencing Haliburton County's homogenous demographics. "It was a bit strange at first, but I got accustomed to it."

It was a Grade 11 marketing course that steered Gowani toward the program he's in. He also points out that he comes from a family of businesspeople, so it was a natural choice.

The Gowanis were the franchisees of the Pioneer station along Highway 35 in Minden.

Marketing is a multifaceted industry and Gowani says he gravitates toward the project management end of things, but isn't certain yet what his dream job would be.

"I'm not sure where I want to go, specifically," he says.

He lives in North York with his mother and older sister Reema.

He says Reema used to return to Haliburton County for the annual Relay for Life and that he has been back a couple of times.

"I went to Kinark once for a camping trip," he says, but has little connection to the Highlands at this point in time.

As for what he does in his spare time?

"Right now, it's just mainly work," Gowani says.



Former Minden resident Alnoor Gowani as he appears now, left, and when he received the OCNA's Junior Citizen of the Year Award in 2009 at age 13.
/Photo submitted/file photo

mindentimes.ca

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County reviews Rail Trail master plan

from page 1

and non-motorized users had quarrelled for exclusive use of the thoroughfare for years – and made a multitude of recommendations, some of which have been implemented and some of which have not.

One of those was increased monitoring and issuing of fines. The OPP and the county’s bylaw officer can issue tickets for breaking the trail’s bylaws.

The county does have its bylaw officer regularly check the trail in April, when ATVs are not yet to be using it.

However, additional patrols for activities such as speeding may not be especially fruitful.

“The chances of being there while they’re doing it are fairly slim,” Douglas said.

Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin said unless there were stats proving that such issues were a problem, there was no point in wasting resources.

“If there isn’t factual basis for it, then I’m not inclined,” Devolin said.

Algonquin Highlands Reeve and County Warden Carol Moffatt agreed, adding such incidents seemed to have declined.

“People aren’t telling us or it isn’t happening as much,” Moffatt said, adding that back when the plan was being drafted, “it was a bit of a wild West out there.”

Another recommendation was the creation of “community zones” in high-traffic areas.

“We’ve never really taken it to the next step,” Douglas said, adding it would require the development of a bylaw, including speed level drops in those areas.

Councillors bristled at the suggestion that an advisory committee for the Rail Trail be re-instituted. The committee as it had existed suffered in-fighting and was dissolved by council in 2009.

“I would never want to see a Rail Trail committee again,” said Minden Hills Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch, adding more progress had been made on the file since the committee disbanded.

Other councillors agreed and it was decided instead that the public works department should do checks with users for public input on work being done on the trail.

In 2015, major work on the corridor included spring grading of its entire length, calcium application in some areas, repairs of washouts and emergency culverts and surface improvement near Gould Crossing.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen said she’d like to see more money put aside to enact more of the recommendations.

“I think we just need to slowly build a fund to get some of these things done,” Danielsen said.

The Haliburton County Rail Trail is a section of the former rail bed stretching 34 kilometres from Kinmount to Haliburton Village.

Red Wolves rock out

The Red Wolves curling team of Robert Boccitto, left, Dawn Piercey, Brent Leffering, Skylar Pratt, Trevor Brauer and coach, Dave McKay are going to Kingston on Jan. 9 to compete in the next round after winning the Special Olympics Regional Tankard playdown on Dec. 5 in Minden. The region two event included a field of 25 athletes from Mississauga, Orillia, Weston and Haliburton competed. The day was filled with excitement but in the end our Wolves won. Weston came second and Orillia third. We wish them all the best. /Submitted by Yvette Brauer

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Fallen Angels *By Noël Coward*

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The Judgment of Paris *By Tom Allen*

Written by CBC Radio Two host, symphony orchestra consultant, author and musician Tom Allen, The Judgment of Paris combines cabaret, history and storytelling with timeless music by Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel, as well as original songs by the performers. Set during the rise of the First World War, you're invited to follow along as musical revolutionary Debussy and his one-time follower Ravel compete for the love of their proud, fickle, darling Paris. The Judgment of Paris is new and old, heroic and tragic, historical and fictional. **Performances July 24 (2:30 matinee), July 25-26.**

Miss Caledonia *By Melody A Johnson*

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Karate students show their stuff

The Minden Wado Kai Karate student Autumn Adams practises her kata before being graded for her orange belt by instructors from the Karate Kawartha Lakes, who helped with the grading of local students from ages five to 35 on Friday, Dec. 12 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden. There were 12 students who were graded. Gradings are twice a year. For information on the local club call senior instructor Sensei Sid MacKeigan at (705) 457-0579. /DARREN LUM Staff

A Minden Wado Kai Karate student crosses fingers and his toes for luck just before instructors from the Karate Kawartha Lakes graded local students from ages five to 35, on Friday, Dec. 12 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden.

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The Minden Wado Kai Karate dojo poses with instructors from the Karate Kawartha Lakes

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Hawks unable to keep pace with Saints

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

It was their game the Red Hawks boys' hockey team coach said after a 7-1 home loss to the St. Peter Catholic Secondary School.

Head coach Ron Yake conceded the Saints was the better team on Thursday afternoon at the A.J. LaRue despite a strong effort.

"We had a good effort. Everyone worked hard, but we were just short guys. It's hard to work hard and ... when the puck is going in our net and they're having a bit of luck it's frustrating for the guys especially when you work hard," he said. "Some games you play and the puck just seems to go in the net for you," he said, referring to last year's playoff game blowout against the Campbellford Flames where it seemed most pucks directed at the net went in. "The puck was going in the net for them. That definitely gave them the spark they needed at the start and we couldn't really [recover] after that."

Key players missing from the lineup were defenceman Max MacNaull, who was with his club team, while injuries to Owen Patterson Smith, who suffered a torn lung, and Mat Wilbee, who is still recovering from a leg injury, are not expected back until late-January.

He wants to get his defenceman to join the offence.

"We need our defence to jump up and pressure their team a little bit more through the neutral zone," he said.

Although the red and white didn't showcase it against the Saints, the team has been working on its defense, which was evident the day before on the road against the third place Campbellford Flames 7-2 the day before.

Yake said this blowout loss is "just one of those games [every team has]" and it comes against a strong team.

"They are the top team in our league. They haven't lost and there is a reason why. They're definitely a good team," he said.

The Saints are undefeated through five games and are on



The Red Hawks centremen Noah Dollo, who scored the only goal for Haliburton, watches his shot beat the St. Peter Saints goalie, but go wide during a home game on Thursday, Dec. 17 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. Haliburton lost 7-1./DARREN LUM Staff

top of the Kawartha High School Hockey League standings with 10 points. After the loss the Hawks dropped to 4-2-1 and are in second place by one point.

To the team's credit, it did work hard when the score was lopsided, which wasn't lost on Yake.

"I'm proud of the guys' effort. They didn't fall apart in the third period. They stuck with it, which is sometimes a hard thing to do when you're getting shellacked," he said. "Good for our guys with staying with it and not filling the penalty box and just working hard and finishing out the game."

Late in the third period, the Hawks' effort was rewarded, as

centremen Noah Dollo scored the team's only goal.

After the holidays, the Hawks will get another test, as it will face some of the best team's in the area at the 13th annual St. Peter Classic Hockey Tournament in Peterborough during the first week of January. It will be playing in the A division and could get its first opportunity to play the Saints again and avenge this lopsided loss.

Yake said he and his players are looking forward to it. The blowout won't be forgotten and serve as motivation for a better showing.

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Red Hawks remain kings of the Kawartha court

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

After their last two games where both ended in climactic fashion, the Red Hawks senior boys' basketball made quick work of the visiting Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans in its most recent game.

On Wednesday afternoon, the second game of a Kawartha West High School League double-header (the first showcasing the junior squads for both schools), the Hawks ran out to a 11-2 lead in the first quarter as a result of a stifling full court press defence and poor shooting from the field for the Spartans.

"We're really keyed in on that [full court press]. We're really working well as a unit to make sure that we're running the system the way we've practiced," coach Dave Waito said.

Waito appreciated the game for how it lacked the drama of the previous two games – the triple overtime win and the buzzer beater win. He believes the lower intensity of the game led to greater turnovers for his team.

"They've been emotional games that we played ... and they've pushed us to the limit at the end of the game and I think we're seeing that right before the winter break. I think

we're a little worn down. Just because we're worn down doesn't mean we roll over and that's what tonight was. I wouldn't say it was our most emotionally high effort, but we took care of business by running the system and by staying focused and by making things happen," he said.

This team has a short bench with only three extra players.

The Hawks forward Hunter Smith led the charge in the first half, scoring 12 of his 16 points in the game. At the half, the Hawks were in control, leading 21-9.

Although the Spartans equaled the Hawks in the third quarter 9-9 and only lost the fourth by one-point 7-6, it was far from enough to erase the first half 11-point lead.

Part of the team's effort to maintain focus and discipline is to add to the playbook, Waito said.

The team employed an offence to spread out the defence, employing a high and low scoring option.

One Hawks player runs along the baseline looking for an opening while another stays at the high post for another scoring option. Variations of it will be developed during the season, Waito said.

"We got some good looks out of it and I thinking building composure in our offence is something that came out of tonight as of a positive," he said.

However Waito said turnovers were a concern despite the great job his team did on the boards.

"We turned the ball over a lot, but we did a great job on the boards and we've been focusing on that because our first four games of the year we didn't rebound very well. Tonight, boxing out – I think Nick [Thompson] had 16 rebounds, I think Jalen [Campbell] had eight. Those stat lines are a big win for us," he said.

Thompson also helped on the scoresheet, finishing with 11 points.

Waito continues to tell his team to be ready for the upcoming rematches against Kawartha West opponents, the Falcons of Fenelon Falls Secondary School and the Wildcats of I.E. Weldon Secondary School. Both teams want nothing more than to avenge the losses in front of their fans.

"We're going to have to step it up so I think that is something to focus on," he said.

The Hawks continue to be undefeated in Kawartha league play.

With an upcoming broken schedule, as the team won't play for two weeks due to holidays and then return for three weeks before the exam break. It's something he and the coaching staff recognize as a challenge towards keeping focused.

The first break will be the first test for his hot team.

"It'll be interesting to see. It'll be an important thing to key on when we come back from this is to keep the momentum going because it's with us right now. We've won seven in a row, including the tournament games. We've won five in a



The Red Hawks centre Jalen Campbell drives to the hoop against an LCVI Spartans defender in Kawartha West High School League action on Wednesday, Dec. 16 in Haliburton. The Hawks easily beat the Spartans 37-24 to remain undefeated in league play./DARREN LUM Staff

row league games so to pick up where we have left off when we come back from break will be our challenge," he said.

The team's first game after the holidays is on the road against Brock on Wednesday, Jan. 6.

Notices



County of Haliburton Holiday Office Hours

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the Administration Building at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, ON will be closed on Thursday, December 24, 2015 at 12:00 noon and will re-open for regular business on Monday, January 4, 2016.

The County Roads Department has a 24 hour call answer service (705-286-1762) should you require immediate assistance.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season



Special Meeting of County Council

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that they will convene in a **Special Closed Session** at 9:00 a.m., January 8, 2016 for the purpose of receiving advice that is subject to solicitor client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose. Meeting will be held in the County Council Chambers at 11 Newcastle St., Minden, ON.

Michael Rutter, CAO/County Clerk
County of Haliburton
mrutter@county.haliburton.on.ca

Junior Hawks basketball team are playing into top form

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

It's all coming together said the junior Red Hawks basketball coach Paul Longo following a competitive game against the visiting Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans on Wednesday, Dec. 16 in Haliburton.

Although the red and white fell short of beating the Spartans, who held off a surging Hawks team 49-42 after they built an insurmountable 24-9 lead at the half, there were plenty of positives.

Longo said the slow start was part of the defensive scheme – half zone and half man-to-man coverage – the Spartans were playing with, which threw off the Hawks.

By the second half Longo made an adjustment, countering with an offence that used a flood to one side with a two guard front that enabled a player to come to the weak side for a scoring chance.

The Hawks executed the offence and surged in the second half, scoring 79 per cent of their game total. Longo was proud of how his team outscored the Spartans 33-25 despite the eventual loss.

He credited his son, point guard Sam Longo, with being able to generate ball movement and appreciated his team's shooting efficiency on the open looks at the basket generated.

"Sam did a great job distributing the ball so that was the key, getting the ball into our guys and moving the ball around and getting the zone moving and opening up for our shots. The shots were going in ... when you're taking good shots they might go in – I mean square to the hoop, good form and time to shoot. They should go in," he said.

Sam led all players with 17 points for the game, all of them coming in the second half. He was followed closely by teammate Brandon Verstege, who also scored the bulk of the second half points with 11 points and 13 in the game.

Coming into the game, the Spartans were 3-1 in Kawartha West High School League play. The Hawks are winless in Kawartha West this season.

The last four games, which includes a tournament win and a six-point loss to Fenelon Falls, there has been noticeable quality to the team's play, Longo said.

"We're getting there. We're seeing good progress from the guys. We're really feeling good about after Christmas how things are going to shape up," he said.

Committee looking for a Mr. and Mrs. Snowball

DORSET NEWS

Melissa Alfano

705-766-0076

malfano@hotmail.ca

Snowball needs a new Mr. and Mrs. Snowball and the committee is looking for nominations from the community to fill these honoured positions. Mr. and Mrs. Snowball are the ambassadors of the carnival and get to have a lot of fun while staying warm in the fuzzy costumes. Why be Mr. and Mrs. Snowball? It's fun! People from all over the world want to have their picture taken with you. You get to be a part of the opening ribbon cutting ceremony. You lead the parade. You will have a crew of the cutest little

snowballs following you in the parade. It's a great honour! If you know someone or if you yourself would like to be ambassadors for Snowball, email recreation@algonquin-highlands.ca or call 705-766-9968 to put their names forward. Snowball is on Friday and Saturday, February 19 and 20, 2016. The next Snowball meeting is on Tuesday, January 12 at 6 p.m. at the rec centre and all are welcome.

The Dorset Recreation Centre will be closing for the Christmas break on Thursday, December 24 and will re-open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 2. The Dorset branch of the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) will also be closed during this period.

There are new hours for the Dorset branch of the HCPL. Starting on January 2, the branch will be open Tuesdays and Saturdays

from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2 to 6 p.m.

There are two exciting job opportunities in the Dorset area. If you love the outdoors and are looking for some part-time winter hours, check out the posting for a winter trail tech at Algonquin Highlands. If working indoors is more your thing and you would like to be a part of "the place where it all happens", check out the posting for the Saturday rec attendant at the Dorset Rec Centre. More information can be found at www.algonquin-highlands.ca or call PRT manager Chris Card at 705-766-9033.

Family Kung Fu classes at the Dorset Rec Centre will be running for six weeks on Saturdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. starting on January 9. This traditional martial art builds character and teaches respect and discipline.

The cost is \$30 for the session and registration is required. For more information or to register, contact recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca or call 705-766-9968. Funding is provided by the Government of Ontario.

The winter session of Tai Chi at the Dorset Rec Centre will start on Monday, January 11. Beginners and all levels are welcome. Advanced class takes place from 10 a.m. to noon and the regular class from 10:30 a.m. to noon. To sign up or find out more, email Valerie Houston-Peel at info@templeknights.com or call 705-767-1177.

Birthday wishes for this coming week go out to Karen Knutt and Rebecca Arbuckle. If you have items or birthdays for the Dorset News, please send them along to malfano@hotmail.ca or give me a call at 705-766-0076.

Put the New Years Day levee on your calendar



Legion br. 636

Members and executive of Minden Legion would like to wish everyone, and particularly our veterans, a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Wednesday Dec. 23 our regular hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with meat draws at noon and lunch served until 2. Tickets will be available \$2 each or 3 for \$5 until the \$75 gift certificate for ValuMart is drawn.

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, lunch is served from 12-2, with last minute gifts and stocking stuffers available until early close at 4 p.m. The branch will be closed Christmas and

Boxing Day, but open to the public on Sunday 27th, noon to 5pm for sports fan day.

Monday the 28 to Thursday the 30, we are open regular hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Open New Year's Day for the President's Levee from 2 to 5 p.m. Everyone from the community is invited to join members of the Legion in sharing good wishes for 2016 with the president and other members of the executive. At 3 p.m. will be the presentations of Long Service Medals and other awards to our members at the honours and awards ceremony. This event is open to the public, so bring your friends and family.

There was a very good turnout at lunchtime last Wednesday with our Christmas Meat Draws. The draws alternated between hams and turkeys and four lucky winners took home

a grade A turkey with four winners enjoying a ham for dinner. Well, to be honest, one patron managed to have two of his tickets drawn and got two turkeys to share with family! Our table was pretty evenly divided between the delectable choices of hot turkey and gravy, or the barbecue ribs. I also had the scrumptious pumpkin crumble for dessert, my compliments to the cook!

We know everyone had a wonderful afternoon on Saturday when the Highlands Trio were entertaining at the branch. We really enjoy your music, thank you to all the band members for the good times you have brought to the Legion this year.

While you are in the branch, you can pick

up a free copy of the first two volumes of Military Service Recognition books. In order that all our "local heroes" from the Boer War to Afghanistan will be remembered, Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion has donated several dozen copies to give away at our Branch. Another edition being prepared for printing next fall and anyone can submit a photo and information about a veteran's service, together with a brief paragraph about his or her life. The veteran can be living, deceased or still serving. The submission form is downloadable from www.on.legion.ca, or contact the public relations officer at Minden Legion, 705-286-4541, for a copy you can complete.

DVD of the Month

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay 1

In the penultimate installment of *The Hunger Games* film adaptations, Katniss Everdeen is taken to the mysterious District 13. The District has been lying in wait, unbeknownst to the Capital, ready to strike when a revolution could be successful. But they need a face for their side to galvanize the districts of Panem, their Mockingjay, and they want Katniss to be that person. But as Katniss finds her wings as the Mockingjay, she must also face the destruction of District 12, guilt over Peta being used as the Capitol's puppet, and the ever watchful President Snow.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay 1 stars Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen. It is available to reserve at the Haliburton County

Public Library, along with more *Hunger Games* titles in print, audio, and DVD.

Library News

Holiday hours are here! All branches will be closed December 24 – 26 and December 31 and January 1. Our Dorset branch will also be closed December 29 and 30. Our administration centre will be closed December 24 through January 3. For our complete hours – including new hours for 2016 – please visit our website at www.haliburtonlibrary.ca.



This holiday season, enjoy some family time - on us!

Family Holiday Skating!

Minden: December 28, 12 - 1pm

Haliburton: December 29, 2 - 3pm

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ST. PATRICK'S PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

MONDAY DECEMBER 21ST 6:00 PM ST. PATRICK'S, KINMOUNT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 22ND 6:00 PM OUR LADY OF FATIMA, MINDEN

CHRISTMAS EVE

THURSDAY DECEMBER 24TH 5:00 PM OUR LADY OF FATIMA, MINDEN

7:00 PM ST. PATRICK'S, KINMOUNT

CHRISTMAS DAY

FRIDAY DECEMBER 25TH 9:00 AM ST. PATRICK'S, KINMOUNT

10:30 AM OUR LADY OF FATIMA, MINDEN

NEW YEAR'S DAY

FRIDAY JANUARY 1ST 9:00 AM ST. PATRICK'S, KINMOUNT

10:30 AM OUR LADY OF FATIMA, MINDEN

UPCOMING Community Events

Eagle Lake Community Church - Christmas Eve Service

When: Dec. 24, 7:00 pm

Where: 2605 Eagle Lake Rd, Eagle Lake

Free public skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon

When: December 30/15 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Where: A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton

The Township of Minden Hills Family Fun New Year's Eve

When: Thursday December 31st 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Where: SG Nesbitt Arena

This is a free event for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult) that includes public skating, hot chocolate, tobogganing.

Contact: Elisha Weiss 705-286-2298 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca

New Years Eve Celebrations

When: Thursday, December 31, 2015

Where: Wilberforce Legion, Wilberforce

Free public skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon

When: January 2/16 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Where: S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, Minden

Fur and Flintlock

When: January 2, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Where: Dorset area

Discover the fascinating world of Canada's and Haliburton County's oldest industry – the fur trade. This intriguing adventure takes you back into history with an 18th century fur trader, along forest and stream on snowshoes to a trading post to hear the stories, see the authentic trade goods, and feast on a traditional lunch.

Contact: Yours Outdoors 705-754-3436, info@youroutdoors.ca, www.yoursoutdoors.ca

Evening Skate at the Oval

When: Friday, January 8, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm (weather permitting) Rain date: Friday, January 22, 2016, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Where: Head Lake Park, Haliburton

Come out for an evening of skating, music and food. The oval will be lit for this evening of magic.

Contact: www.dysartetal.ca, Andrea Mueller, amueller@dysartetal.ca (705) 457-1740 x. 35

Haliburton County Folk Society Open Stage

When: Sat. Jan. 9 at 7:30 pm

Where: Haliburton Highlands Museum

Come share your musical talent and enjoy the music of other talented musicians.

Contact: Guy Pritchard 705-754-3881

Envision Your Best Self

When: Saturday, January 9, 2016

Where: Holness Yoga & Guest Suites

Learn how to manifest your dreams and discover your true calling. Join Holness Yoga/ Ananda Energy for their Envision Your Best Self Event and make 2016 the year your dreams come true.

Contact: gailholness@gmail.com

Chamberlin honoured for assistance

Places for People's Max Ward presents Dominion Hotel's Shawn Chamberlin with a plaque for his persevering support of Places for People by hosting a series of fundraising collaborations over the years. The Dominion Hotel hosted P4P's first musical fund-raising event in January '08, before P4P had charitable status or owned a property. It was a cabaret evening featuring Jazz Kitchen and Ragged Company, the precursor of many musical evenings, including, starting in the early spring of 2012, the now-annual Hootenany. Chamberlin is the impresario of these evenings, tapping his rich network of musicians (of which he is a talented member) to offer their work for free, and organizing a high octane musical evening for an appreciative crowd, with P4P receiving the proceeds. The Dominion was also the site of P4P's first dinner theatre fund-raiser in October 2008, featuring Katherine Boyd and Tim Nicolson in a performance of Love Letters. Another dinner theatre, Oh Annie! directed by David McGee, raised \$600 over two performances in October of this year, before proceeding to the regional one-act play competition in November hosted by Highlands Little Theatre.

It was this recent dinner theatre event that led board members of Places for People to review the on-going generosity of Shawn Chamberlin in supporting the cause of affordable rental housing in Haliburton County and to decide to celebrate him as an exemplar of sustained collaboration between business, the performing arts and social justice. It is this kind of shared contribution that makes our community thrive both culturally and economically. Submitted by Fay Martin



Christmas at a slower pace

AROUND THE TOWN

Patti Fleury

705-488-2938 brucefleury1@hotmail.com

Here at the old farmhouse preparations continue for Christmas but at a much slower, more relaxed pace than over the past few years when getting ready to travel to the GTA. Bruce is planning to make his traditional maple cream (not fudge) this Monday and will use his Dad's candy thermometer. Every Christmas Grandpa Fleury would make a variety of candy treats including peanut brittle, sponge toffee, turkish delight and of course the favourite maple cream. Grandma Fleury, not to be outdone, would bake delicious mincemeat

(homemade recipe with suet) pies which when served for dessert along with our son David's birthday cake sometimes did not receive the compliments they deserved. Grandma would not have been so upset if she had witnessed that same birthday boy sneaking downstairs early the next morning to finish off those mincemeat leftovers. Likely the only Christmas I was really organized was that one 53 years ago when David was due on Christmas Eve. Sweaters were knitted, cards sent out and parcels wrapped when sure enough he made his appearance early on Christmas morning – the first Christmas baby born that year at Toronto East General Hospital.

There is really no new "news" since that sent in yesterday but a column has been requested ahead for next week's issue of the *Times*. So instead I will use this space to send out from our house to yours and from our family to you and yours the warmest wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

At this time I would like to take this opportunity to thank the reporters that faithfully call in the event scores each week. *Times* editor Jenn Watt along with Chad and Angelica Ingram have been great to work with and their support of Kinmount area events much appreciated. Sometimes just getting my small contribution submitted each week can be a little overwhelming particularly when the computer gremlins decide to act up. I am deeply impressed by these professional journalists and the quality of this publication.

Here are three sets of card scores from Tuesday events which can be shared. Holiday schedules vary so best to check with your convener if unsure. The first set of results is from Mixed Shuffleboard at Stanhope Firehall. Pearl Cowen reports that Bev Alexander and Max McKelvey were first at 259 then Eleanor Lymer and Mary Trumbull 230. Dorene Elstone and John Fortune teamed up for third spot at 223 while Blanche Carr partnered with John Kerr posted the afternoon's low of 99.

The next news is from the euchre at Lochlin Community Centre via our reporter Nancy McPherson. Lone hand honours went to Linda Schrader with Reta Crofts high lady and Irene McDowell low. For the gents Neil Darby took top marks with Ed McDowell low man while Gene Newell won the special prize.

At the Minden Seniors bid euchre at Minden Legion the leading ladies were Clare Obdam 311, Ida Young 287. Diane Wigley 232 and tied for fourth spot at 231 Pat Norman and Sharron Atkinson. First for the gents at 307 was Albert Foster followed by Doug McIntosh 276, Bruce Metcalf 247 and Karen Chapman 219. Muriel McIntosh won the major draw with James Bastedo, Dorothy McElwain and Sharron Atkinson claiming the smaller prizes. Betty Wagar further reports that Vi Howell along with Pat and Jean Scadden took the moonshots.

Until next Year keep busy and well, they go together...

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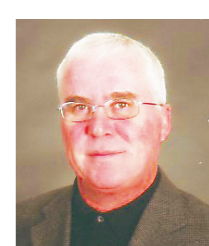
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